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CALIFORNIA AWARDED \$3 MILLION LEAD GRANT

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Community Services & Development (CSD) has been awarded a \$3 million grant by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to remove potentially dangerous lead from homes where young children live.

"Lead poisoning causes intelligence quotient deficiencies, learning disabilities, impaired hearing, lower attention span, hyperactivity and behavior problems," said CSD Director Lloyd Throne. "Our Lead Hazard Control Program will improve the lives of hundreds of low-income families by reducing their exposure to lead poisoning through the safe removal of lead from their homes."

In response to the national problem of childhood lead poisoning from lead-based paint, the federal government made grants available to states and local governments to evaluate cost effective approaches to remove lead in low-income privately owned housing. Residences built before 1978 and occupied by a child under age 6 or occupied by a child with an elevated blood level are targeted for lead hazard control. In addition to lead abatement, funds can be used to provide lead hazard control training and awareness outreach.

CSD contracts with five community-based organizations to provide services in seven targeted counties in California, including the Maravilla Foundation (Los Angeles County); Economic & Social Opportunities, Inc. (Santa Clara County); Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino (San Bernardino County); Community Resource Project, Inc. (Sacramento, Sutter and Yuba counties); and Redwood Community Action Agency (Humboldt County).

In addition to the Lead Hazard Control Program, CSD administers California's share of funding for other federal programs, including the Community Services Block Grant, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Weatherization Assistance Program.

The Governor has worked to prevent childhood lead poisoning by signing legislation that prohibits the sale of imported candies with high levels of lead and strengthens the state's oversight to monitor lead content in candy. The Governor also signed legislation to establish criminal penalties and increase fines for repeated violations of lead-based paint hazard laws.

For more information about CSD or the Lead Hazard Control Program, please log on to www.csd.ca.gov or call (866) 675-6623 for referral to the provider in your area.

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